



Speedway

Timeline for development is set

3



Barb Volke

Community Program
Outreach Erie manager
says she's meant to serve
others

41



Local kickboxer featured
in A Kickin' Christmas

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Abandoned dog recovering



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie SPCA caregiver Karen Hawkins pets Tommy, a doberman pinscher, who was found in brush near the Rio Vista Golf Course in Fort Erie two weeks ago. The animal has a fibula fracture to his hip and was abandoned.

Tommy is
expected to
make a full
recovery

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Tommy, a doberman pinscher, is thriving and was in good spirits Monday after he was recovered from a wooded area when he was left for dead more than a week ago.

Fort Erie resident Thomas McCleary was visiting his friends at a Thompson Rd. home on Nov. 15 when he heard a dog yelping loudly.

"I heard the dog barking and I thought something wasn't right," he said.

When McCleary searched out where the noise was coming from, he found the pooch about a hundred metres into the brush beside the Rio Vista Golf Course.

"He has a great personality and he had no problem with us picking him up," McCleary said of the dog.

The dog was taken to the Fort Erie SPCA and received surgery to repair a hip fracture, said SPCA assistant manager Robyn Voice.

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Province backs grant for new south Niagara hospital

Health minister Deb Matthews said Liberals support planning grant for hospital

Ray Spiteri and Tony Ricciuto
OMI Agency Niagara

For the first time in 14 months, the Liberal government appears closer than ever to approving a

south Niagara hospital. "Our government is prepared to take the next step in the form of a planning grant so that the best health care will be delivered in Niagara going forward," Health Minister Deb Matthews said Monday.

"We are on track to announce more details in the coming weeks."

In September, Niagara Health System supervisor Kevin Smith recommended the province endorse a hospital near Lyons Creek and Montrose Rds. to replace aging sites in

Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie, Welland and Port Colborne.

"Dr. Smith has built a strong case for a new hospital in south Niagara and there is growing local support for his proposal," said Matthews. "We continue to review (the) NHS' proposal very carefully."

Smith said he's pleased Matthews will provide a grant. "In my view, based on the economics and clinical need, the south site is a when and not an if," He said the NDP's idea to

build a south Niagara hospital and keep existing sites open would defeat the purpose of what the NHS is trying to do — consolidate its activity and staff.

Matthews' statement comes after Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak called on the minority government to approve a grant allowing local authorities to move forward in building a south Niagara hospital.

The grant would provide the NHS with financing to develop a preliminary cap-

ital plan to identify core services and programs, and outline governance of the new organization within the hospital. The next step would be a capital planning grant to finalize plans before construction begins.

Hudak said that was the criteria for the proposed Windsor mega hospital, which received a \$2.5 million planning grant in January to consolidate two sites into one.

He was skeptical of Matthews' statement. "I think I know this par-

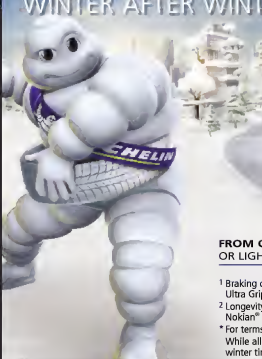
ticular card trick," said Hudak. "They will find a candidate who will miraculously convince minister Matthews of the benefits of the south Niagara hospital, but nobody believes the Liberals are sincere."

Hudak said the NDP is reckless by offering an unrealistic proposal to build a hospital and keep existing sites open.

See Page 3

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Timeline set for speedway

Final site plan should be submitted to Town of Fort Erie in April

Matt Day
QMI Agency Niagara

The first portion of phase one for the Canadian Motor Speedway is complete. In order for construction crews to begin building the \$400-million raceway in Fort Erie, a narrow creek that runs through the property needs to be rerouted.

Speedway spokesman Erik Tomas said Acon Construction finished the first-half of the project recently, repositioning 200,000 tons of top soil and clay, excavating the main flow channel of Miller Creek and hydro-seeding its banks.

Once completed, Miller Creek will be 60 metres wide, two metres deep and repositioned to the north of its current location.

The site will be secured for winter and phase one should be completed in the spring, he said.

Canadian Motor Speedway partner and executive director Azhar Mohammad said an architectural firm for the Jeff Gordon-designed speedway should be selected by mid-February.

A final site plan should be submitted to the town in April and construction could start by mid-summer, he added.

Horwath: Hudak doesn't talk about people and services needed

From Page 2

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said Hudak talks about streamlining administration and making sure experts are listened to, but doesn't talk about people and the health-care services they need.

"With all due respect to Dr. Smith, he's a bureaucrat, he likes to count paperclips and that's his job, but politicians have a different job and that's to try and meet the needs of the people," she

said.

"Dr. Smith is suggesting a hospital is to save millions and millions of dollars, but the amalgamation that happened in the Niagara health service was supposed to save millions and millions of dollars and they didn't save a dime."

A Tory motion asking the government to back Smith's recommendation passed 71-15 in the legis-

lature Monday. Horwath said New Democrats voted against the

motion because it would shut down local hospitals.

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Visit Santa's Fantasy Land



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

The Fort Erie Optimist and Opti-Mrs Clubs are hosting Santa's Fantasy Land, featuring dazzling Christmas displays over the course of two weekends, Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 and Dec. 6 to Dec. 8. The event features a penny sale, photos with Santa, decorating cookies with Mrs. Claus and children's games. The Optimist Hall on Gilmore Rd. will be open Fridays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

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opinion page

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SARAH FERGUSON, Editor 905-871-3100 ext. 207
sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

MYRA ROBERTSON, Sales Manager 905-871-3100 ext. 202
myra.robertson@sunmedia.ca

MIKE CRESSMAN, Publisher
michael.cressman@sunmedia.ca



Do You Remember?

Last week's photo of the artists at Christmas brought in no calls, so it will go back into the unidentified people binders here at the museum.

If you are able to identify the people in last

week's photo, you can still call the museum and let volunteers know who these people are.

Does anyone remember the Rotary float or recognize what year or where this

week's photo of the Santa Claus parade was taken?

If you recognize the people in this photo please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail museum@forterie.on.ca

Bay Beach condo shouldn't be on council agenda



Sarah Ferguson
Editor's Notebook

The Bay Beach condominium development was up for discussion again during this week's council meeting.

After renegotiating the Molinaros' contract in closed session for several weeks, town council brought their discussion regarding the Bay Beach condos out into the open on Monday

night.

Although none of the details from previous closed session meetings were made available to the public, council discussed another twist in the long talked about Molinaro development. The Molinaros asked council to consider an extension from the town.

The new deadline—June 2015—would give the Molinaros an 18-month period to sell more condo units.

Interim chief administrative officer Rick Brady said the Molinaros were expected to sell at least 45 units as part of the contract. The clause was added by condo developers to give them a risk-free date which would allow them to leave the project behind without any risks

or consequences of doing so. Of the condominium project's 67 units, only 16 have been sold, developer Vince Molinaro told me two weeks ago.

After a heated discussion, councillors voted 4-3, and denied an extension for the Bay Beach condo.

After the Molinaros failed to meet a specific term of purchase and sale agreement with the Town of Fort Erie, there isn't much time left for the developers to sell units in the development.

The Molinaros must sell 45 units by Tuesday, Dec. 31.

During the council meeting Monday night, Mayor Doug Martin said he thought the way town council has treated the Molinaros was

abysmal.

He said anytime you hang such a dark cloud over a development, it will have an impact on sales. I agree with what he said.

There has been talk about this condo for years.

It's been far too long that this development has been debated at council meetings if you ask me.

I understand both points of view. A condominium, the first of its kind in Fort Erie will create a lot of change.

Some feel it will impact the area in a negative way, while others feel it will bring in jobs to the town.

Whether you agree with the development coming to Fort Erie, or not, it's time to say enough already.

There has been appeal

after appeal with the Ontario Municipal Board and it has appeared before council numerous times.

Often the development has been referred to as controversial but at this point I don't think it is.

My concern is about what council's decision from Monday night says to potential developers looking to bring projects to the area.

If I were to bring industry to Fort Erie, I am not sure I would want to be based on how long this condominium project has been held up.

Fort Erie has larger problems to deal with than one development.

This town needs its council to focus on other projects that need attention.

There is a vast population of residents out of work

and any developer willing to bring in employment opportunities should be welcomed.

New industry could certainly spruce up Jarvis Street which is in need of a revitalization.

Then there are other issues that need to be dealt with such as the Kinsmen Pool.

As it sits now, the pool is left to decay and there is nothing for the youth of Fort Erie in that end of town to occupy their time during the summer months except for the library.

Fort Erie needs to shed light on other projects that will help it grow and become a more vibrant community.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

opinion page

Christmas films brighten library during December



Amy Roebuck
Fort Erie Public Library

What is your favourite Christmas movie?

Whatever it may be, chances are we will be showing it at the Fort Erie Public Library during the month of December. You can enjoy

holiday films from Monday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday afternoons at the Centennial branch and on Tuesday afternoons at Crystal Ridge, until Dec. 23.

A Christmas Story, with several scenes filmed in St. Catharines, has us cheering for Ralphie as he struggles to convince his parents, teachers and Santa that a Red Ryder B.B. gun really is the perfect gift for the mid-20th century boy.

A Christmas Story will be screened on Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Centennial branch, and on Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. at Crystal Ridge.

Will Ferrell's Elf will be on

the playbill for Dec. 9 and Dec. 10, also at the Centennial branch Monday evening and at the Crystal Ridge branch on Tuesday afternoon.

The Thursday evening movie picks are all a matter of choice.

Holiday Inn, the 1942 Irving Berlin musical starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire, will be featured on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Centennial branch. This film predates the more popular White Christmas, but it introduces that all-time favourite number. When it is time for watching Miracle on 34th Street, do you prefer

the black and white or the colour version?

Is your favourite Kris Kringle played by Richard Attenborough or Edmund Gwenn?

We'll have both on hand, and take a vote on Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

If you feel that the 1951 Alastair Sim version of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol is overused, John us on Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m. or the 1938 movie starring Reginald Owen.

Jim Carrey's take on A Christmas Carol, produced by Disney, will be our Saturday matinee on Dec. 7, starting at 2:00 p.m.

Children's programs in December offer fun and learning right up to the holidays.

Knitting with the Bowen Road Women's Institute ladies continues on Thursday evenings at Crystal Ridge through December 19, and Lego Maker Club will be at Stevensville on Dec. 10, on December 14 at the Crystal Ridge branch, and on Dec. 18 at Centennial branch. Holiday Story times for little ones 18 months and older will be on Dec. 17 at Crystal Ridge and December 18 at Centennial branch.

There are just ten days left to contribute hats and

mittens, scarves and books for the mitten trees and book baskets at all library branches.

These items will be distributed through St. Vincent de Paul at St. George's Roman Catholic Church, Kinsmen Gift of Love, the Salvation Army, and other area churches.

Information on holiday programs, books, hours and more at the Fort Erie Public Library, please visit the website at www.fetpl.ca.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator for the Fort Erie Public Library.

Life as a medical journalist is educational



Dr. Gifford Jones
The Doctor's Game

"Have you ever thought you'd like to be a journalist?" Well, here's the good and the bad.

First, I was well trained at The Harvard Medical School, but as a journalist I've had an unprecedented learning experience searching for information I would never have sought before, on all sorts of topics.

The bad? The profession requires responsibility, discipline, thick skin and recurring deadlines.

So I've written about the experience in a book titled, "What I Learned as a Medical Journalist."

I quickly learned that hypocrisy and distortion of the truth can affect doctors and humanitarian organizations. Years ago I urged the government to legalize heroin to ease the agony of terminal cancer patients.

I won the battle with great difficulty but lost the war.

Bureaucrats put asinine, inhumane restrictions on its use. Their decision was a disastrous error, and those responsible should rot in hell for the untold suffering they have caused terminal cancer patients.

As a medical journalist I quickly became convinced that Pogo was right when he remarked, "We have identified the enemy and the enemy is us."

How disastrous it is that every 40 seconds a new case of someone is diagnosed in North America and every 37 seconds someone dies of coronary attack!

But the Korean War had already showed what was happening when autopsies revealed that 77 percent of U.S. soldiers, with an average age of 22, had significant coronary disease. One percent of the enemy had it. North Americans were obviously doing something terribly wrong.

Without the research for my column I'm sure I would have been convinced that cholesterol was the culprit in cardiac deaths, and that cholesterol-lowering drugs (CLDs) were the cure.

Now, I'm convinced that CLDs represent an unmitigated disaster of unparalleled proportions, the greatest medical disaster committed by pharmaceutical companies.

I've witnessed North Americans becoming the most over-drugged society in history. Now, a well patient is someone who hasn't seen enough doctors or had a barrage of tests done, this over-treatment carries a heavy price tag.

For instance, it's ironic that every year 100,000 North Americans die from prescription drugs, the ones that were supposed to cure them.

Add on another 700,000 that are admitted to an emergency room due to unintended side effects.

Yet to my knowledge no dead bodies result from natural remedies. Without being a journalist I might never have tried natural remedies before resorting to prescription medication.

My book covers a variety of these issues, for instance, the myths of cholesterol that lead so many people astray.

It vividly illustrates that "It's not the things you don't know that get you into trouble, it's the things you know for sure that ain't so."

Over the last 37 years, as a doctor and journalist, I've learned that practicing medicine is a lot more than a job.

This is why I believe it's vital to keep a sense of humour in our stress laden society. So the last chapter of my book details a number of humorous topics, as I've never known

anyone to die from laughter.

One can explain why I believe there should be a pub in every hospital. How I discovered the most embarrassing sexual injury. How many of us could pass the fighter pilot tests. And why I might never have been a journalist if I hadn't married a smart woman.

But my most important learning experience?

It was interviewing Dr. Louis Pauling who told me animals make vitamin C and humans lost this ability once we left the trees before resorting for the epidemic of coronary attack.

Later, Dr. Sydney Bush proved that high concentrations of vitamin C and lysine can prevent and reverse coronary artery and other arterial blockages.

It's catastrophic that this revolutionary research is ignored by cardiologists when this natural remedy is for the asking in Health Food Stores and one hell of a nice. So my thanks to Lady Luck that I didn't miss this experience.

What I Learned as a Medical Journalist is available in health food stores.

See the web site www.docgiff.com, www.docgiff.com for comments info@docgiff.com

Health care in forefront as election looms

Dear Editor,

The games begin.

The power play that the parties started now that the bi-election is looming, and health care is a major issue in Niagara where health care has been cut drastically.

The Minister of Health appointed Supervisor Kevin Smith to assess the problems and find a workable solution.

He made NHS leadership changes, and opened locked doors, making them approachable and then, after months of working with community leaders and health agencies wrote his report. A site for a new hospital to replace our aging facilities was chosen and voted on by the mayors and the report submitted to the minister.

The game plan of this political game of chance has started: NDP Leader Andrea Horwath wants the hospital built on Lyons Creek, but also wants the other hospitals to

remain open.

PC Leader Tim Hudak wants the hospital built, and also wants the Liberal government to approve a planning grant to start the building process, as was done for Windsor, stating that it would be \$285-million less to build a new site than to keep older sites going plus another \$10-million annually in operating costs.

Liberal Premier Wynne has not yet called a bi-election to replace Kim Craitor, and both the premier and the minister of health, Deb Matthews remain uncommitted to building a new hospital in Niagara south.

The Yellow Shirt Brigade is still watching carefully to what is being said.

Both Andrea Horwath and Tim Hudak have been to Fort Erie during our fight for our hospitals and they are still out there speaking for all of us. Premier McGuinty promised to keep Fort Erie hospital open if he was elected, and we all know how that turned out.

Who we vote for is obviously a game of chance, so listen and watch carefully what is going on your bet in the voting booth.

*Joy Russell
Yellow Shirt Brigade*

Dog's injuries were left untreated longer than estimated

From Page 1

"He went in for surgery (last) Thursday," Voyce said.

"We speculated that his injury was about a week

old at the time, but because he was hydrated at the time, we realized afterward that was not the case."

Initially, SPCA employees estimated the dog had been struck by a car and

was left to roam for two to three days.

Voyce said the dog's injuries were untreated for some time. A local veterinarian determined the injury "was quite old" because of scar tissue

found on the wound.

Tommy, who was named after the road he was rescued on, is "doing really well."

Voyce said pins were surgically used to repair the fracture to the pooch's

hip.

"Once he's ready to have the cast off, his hip will need to be x-rayed again."

When the Times reported the story on its website last week, Voyce said news spread fast which led to an outpouring of support from the community.

"The donations for Tommy have been incredible. Everyone has pitched in and made a difference."

The dog's surgery cost

\$500 on top of \$400 in veterinary fees to heal the animal.

Once he is fully recovered, Tommy will be placed with a foster family. Voyce said a few people have expressed an interest in adopting Tommy.

When Tommy finds his forever home, Voyce said the dog will receive \$275 worth of training classes from Dave McMahon's Dog Academy in Niagara Falls.

Voyce said Tommy will still need medications and a special type of food during his recovery.

Donations for Tommy, as well as other animals under the Fort Erie SPCA's care can be dropped off at the organization at 410 Jarvis St. or call 905-871-2461.

sarah.ferguson@sun-media.ca



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BRANCH 71, FORT ERIE

DECEMBER 2013 CALENDAR

Friday, November 29th

Karaoke Chics 7pm - 11pm

Saturday, November 30th

Craft Show 9am - 5pm

Sunday, December 8th

Kids Christmas Party 1pm - 4pm
(members & their families only)

Friday, December 20th

Karaoke Chics 7pm - 11pm

Saturday, December 21st

Pot Luck Supper 4pm

(members & their families only)

Wednesday, December 25th

Legion Closed - Merry Christmas

Friday, December 27th

Karaoke Chics 7pm - 11pm

NO Fish Fry December 27th

Tuesday, December 31st

Happy New Year!

Entertainment - Jim & Pam Yorlido
Cost \$10, 9pm - 1am Light Refreshments

Monday, January 6th, 2014

General Meeting 7:30pm

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Phone: 905-871-9566 for more information.

13065-1123

Council to consider future use of Rose Seaton School

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

The Town of Fort Erie wants to see former Rose Seaton Elementary School put to good use.

An open house was held Wednesday at town hall for the public to come forward to get a glance at ideas for the future use of property. About 20 people attended and shared their input with town staff, said Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero.

Rose Seaton, along with Fort Erie Elementary School, closed in June as a result of an accommodation.

The District School Board of Niagara owns the property and the town is looking at rezoning it to make it more attractive to potential buyers.

"We hope to rezone it to make it more marketable and make the sale quicker. The last thing we want to see is a vacant property sit-

ting for a long amount of time," Passero said.

"Right now, the property is zoned for institutional uses which offers a limited list of uses for the property," Passero added.

"We're looking for proposed ideas for rezoning the structure that would allow more uses to be done on the site than is currently available."

Passero said leaving the land vacant is not ideal as it could lead to loitering and graffiti.

"The quicker we can find someone to take hold of the property, the better it is for everyone."

"We heard a lot of difference of opinions which included what people would like to see and what they would not like to see," Passero said of Wednesday's meeting.

Suggestions that came from the meeting included turning the property into a park or developing single-

family housing.

The information from Wednesday's meeting will be compiled into a report for council on Dec. 2.

"During this meeting, an official public meeting where people will be invited to express the pros and the cons of rezoning the property," Passero said.

Rezoning the property is the first step in a long process to see the land reused. Passero said the land would likely be rezoned by the end of January if council approves the process. Once the property is rezoned, and purchased, the new owner of the property will have to complete a site plan.

He encourages the public to attend the

Dec. 2 public meeting or submit their input in writing to town staff.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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Fax - 905-871-4172

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Fort Erie Times Photo

In this file photo, a family rides a horse-drawn carriage during the Spirit of Christmas in downtown Ridgeway last year.

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Submit a detailed resume by Noon local time on Friday, December 13, 2013 to: Competition No. 25-2013, Human Resources, Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6. Fax: (905) 871-4022, email: hr@forterie.on.ca or (905) Word, OpenOffice or pdf. More information is available @ www.town.forterie.on.ca under "Town Hall". Candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. The evaluation process may include a practical assessment. Personal information is collected under the Municipal Act, 2001 to determine employment suitability. The Town of Fort Erie is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation is available to candidates upon request.

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Nomination forms may be obtained from the following:

Town of Fort Erie

Facilities Management

3 Municipal Centre Drive

Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2S6

Or Email: icollee@forterie.on.ca

***** Nomination forms must be completed and submitted prior to
Friday, December 13th, 2013 to the above mentioned address,
Attention: Cathy Dennaower**

OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING ON STREETS

ATTENTION ALL MOTORISTS: In an effort to keep the streets free of vehicles during the winter months for snowplowing and sanding operations, residents are reminded that no overnight parking is permitted.

Traffic By-law No. 2000-89, Section 205 provides that "No person shall park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to remain parked" on any street in Town "between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. between November 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014."

The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be exercising vigilant enforcement of By-law No. 2000-89. **Your vehicle will be issued a parking ticket and could be towed, at your expense, if found in violation of the by-law.**

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Come join the fun! Also bring in your
letters to Santa before December 12th
and you will be sure to get a letter back!
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items for our local food bank

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Housing plan passes

Niagara Region's housing plan for the next decade has left some housing advocates hopeful for change.

The region celebrated National Housing Day last Friday, a day after regional council approved a 10-year plan for affordable housing. The hefty report focuses on tackling homelessness in the community in the face of a dramatic public housing shortage.

"I think the thing that excites me most about it is this is now a focal

point," said YWCANiagara executive director Elisabeth Zimmermann. "We recognize it as a community need and it's something that should be happening."

"My hope is it becomes a priority, from a council and a community perspective."

The new plan comes with Niagara Region facing a massive social housing crunch.

More than 11,000 people are waiting for affordable housing, said

Niagara Regional Housing executive director Lora Beckwith. "We have about 8,000 units, but if you do that comparison, it doesn't come through. People have to move out before people can move in," she said.

The document lays out four goals - housing the homeless, helping people retain their home, increasing housing options and building housing stock capacity - along with a series of steps towards them.

GIFT OF love



The public's help is needed this year as always. In purchasing an unwrapped gift for a boy or girl, infant to 12 years of age. As part of our new special program we are also asking for you, the caring people of Fort Erie, to purchase non-perishable goods to support the Salvation Army food drive.

We invite the public to use either our Ken Korman or the Salvation Army Berridge Island collection locations throughout the Town as drop-off points between November 20th & December 22nd. You may drop off your Gift of Love at the Salvation Army Kettle Stands & at the following locations:

- Old Bank Bistro • Wal-Mart • Brodies Drug Store on Ridge Road in Ridgeway
- Scotiabank in the County Fair Mall • Royal Bank Ridge Road in Ridgeway
- The Fort Erie Times (by Money Mart) • McGregor-Miller in Stevesville
- Turtle Club Daycare Ridge Road in Ridgeway

by December 22nd please!!!

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St. Catharines 100 Fourth Ave. 905-682-6328

Niagara Falls 6225 Thorold Stone Rd. 905-354-0186
Fonthill 20 Hwy 20 E. 905-892-4765
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Rods

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WE CAN DO BETTER.

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Duane Gibson General Manager Retail

Rod Hebert General Manager Custom

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BOWEN ROAD

Women's Institute meets third Thursday of the month at People's Memorial Church, Ridgeway, at 7 p.m.

AIR CADETS

337 Alan Troup Squadron meet every Wednesday at Fort Erie Leisureplex, Lions Banquet

Hall, 6:45-9:30 p.m. For youth ages 12-18 years-old. For more information e-mail harold.sully@cadets.net.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, meetings are every second and fourth Thursday of the month at St. Kevin's Church (Hospitality Room)

from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., 303 Niagara St., Welland, Call 905-732-3969 for further information.

FIBROMYALGIA MEETING

Every second Tuesday through June at Rapelle Lodge, Plymouth Rd., Welland. More info, call Vicki at 905-384-2294. Support, understanding and open discussions.

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A brick to the people who didn't help

A brick to the people who saw us and didn't stop to help. We were stranded on Netherby Road on Nov. 16. We were just through the tunnel and stuck with a flat tire. We are both in our 80s and unable to walk too far. A brick to the motorist and police cars that passed us by. There is one exception though. We would like to send a bouquet for one young man who had stopped to see if we needed help. Luckily, we had our cell phone and were able to call for help.

Bouquet for students

A bouquet to the Fort Erie Elementary Secondary students and their teacher, Ruth Hitchcock, who helped to decorate the post office and Christmas tree on Jarvis Street last Thursday. As a part-time student and parent of students attending school, I know that they are the best.

Bouquet for COPE

A bouquet for Barb and Mandi at Community Program Outreach Erie, as well as all of their

volunteers who put their hearts and souls into helping the less fortunate members of our community every day.

Bouquet for a woman

A bouquet for the woman who is out every morning with her dog collecting litter. I don't want you to go unrecognized because you are making a visible difference to the Town of Fort Erie. Thank you.

A brick for an officer not following rules of the road

A brick to police officer I saw turning left onto Sunset Drive from Gilmore Road with no signal and a cell phone at his ear. He's probably thankful the roles were not reversed that morning.

A bouquet for parents

A bouquet to my mom and dad for being my parents. I would be so lost without them. I know that when I am in trouble or need advice, I can always come to them for help. Thanks!

A brick to a disrespectful person

A brick for the person who threw eggs at my car. I can't believe someone would do that. I hope you come forward and apologize to me for what you did.

Send your bricks & bouquets to:
sarah.fergusson@sun-media.ca or phone:
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ASK THE EXPERT

Q: Why is networking important to my business?

A: Networking is crucial people and having the ability to sell them who you are and what you do is a precise and increasing manner. It is also referring people with a need to other related people and businesses and by successfully helping others while you actively promote and meet new potential clients and contacts. Your networking must be to develop a 10-second "elevator pitch" about yourself and your business which can be presented to the listener in an interesting manner.

Successful networking is increasing your potential clients and contacts and having others refer business to you. Good networks are always looking for ways to help other people as well as themselves, because what goes around comes around. Some ways to start networking are to join a service club, the local Chamber of Commerce, or a business association. Attending seminars, workshops and trade shows also increases your network, as well as your knowledge.

Steve Helwig

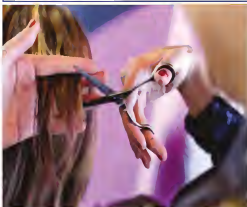
helps to start networking are to join a service club, the local Chamber of Commerce, or a business association. Attending seminars, workshops and trade shows also increases your network, as well as your knowledge.

For more information contact:



BSL

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45 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, ON
905-871-7331 • www.bslft.com



Ask The Accountant

Q: Am I running my small business effectively?
A: Small to medium size businesses make up 99.8% of all Canadian companies. It is critical to develop good business practices which add value to businesses in good time and bad such as:

- Your business is more likely to be profitable and have better cash flow
- Your business is more likely to better manage risk
- Your business may be easier to sell and at a better price
- Your business may find it easier to obtain financing

To help keep your business in good shape the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) has developed a useful checklist to be used throughout the year. Our office would be pleased to provide this checklist for no charge. One of the most useful web-sites for small business is:

I have come across it several times and it is a very helpful website for small business advice. It covers virtually any concerns an entrepreneur may have.



Kenneth D. Lenchynsky
CMA, AIA, CFE

crawford smith & swallow
Chartered Accountants LLP
76 Jarvis Street,
Fort Erie, Ontario
905-871-2610
ken@crawfordss.com

ASK THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

Q: What are the New Rules for CMHC Mortgages

A: In order to help protect all home buyers from the negative effects of potentially rising mortgage rates, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has tightened the standards for determining how Canadians qualify to buy a home. Although it may seem challenging now, these changes will enable more Canadian families to afford not only to purchase their first home, but also to afford the home of their dreams.

Let's consider your current financial status ... If you have a balance on an unsecured line of credit or credit cards, 3% of the balance must be calculated in to qualify for the mortgage. Interest only payments are no longer acceptable. As well, actual heating costs for the home must be factored into the equation.

At Fort Erie Credit Union, our Lending Team is here to help you with all your questions and concerns ... we are People Helping People.



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Ask a Funeral Director

Q: Who are all these people offering to sell funeral insurance?

A: They are just that, Insurance Salespeople. They are not affiliated with nor do they represent our funeral home. If you want to be confident that your Funeral is paid for, the only way you can do that is to talk to a funeral director.



Darren Flagg
Funeral Director



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2013

Ridgeway

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

TIME

4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

ACTIVITY

Horse and Carriage Rides

Pick up and drop off at The Sanctuary, 209

Ridge Road, To the Ridgeway Museum, 402 Ridge Road

Ride one way free with donation of nonperishable

food items. All donations go to St. Vincent de Paul Society and

St. George's Church

4:45 p.m.

Greetings from the Mayor (at Pacific Productions)

5:00 p.m.

Children's Elementary Choir performances at Pacific Productions

St. George's Catholic School

Conducted by Suzanne Faman

5:30 p.m.

Crystal Beach Public School

Conducted by Heather Bauer

6:00 p.m.

Bertie Public School

6:30 p.m.

Ridgeway Public School

Conducted by Michelle Smith and Debbie Longval

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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2013 Ridgeway

SPRIT OF CHRISTMAS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Christmas Artisan Market At the Sanctuary Baked goods, pottery, soap etc.
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Toy Trader Music At the Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. to 1 p.m.	Step back in time and have some fun Victorian Style plus a live reading of A Christmas Carol At the Village Square
12:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Horse and Carriage Rides Pick up and drop off at The Sanctuary, 209 Ridge Road, To the Ridgeway Museum, 402 Ridge Road Ride Ride one way free with donation of non- perishable food items. All donations go to St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. George's Church

12:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.	Pictures with Snow White at 234 Ridge Road \$2.00 donations accepted
1:00 p.m.	Elementary Children's Choir Garrison Road Public School Conducted by Eve Anderson
1:30 p.m.	Stevensville Public School To be confirmed
2:00 p.m.	St. Joseph's Public School To be confirmed
2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Strolling Santa Claus
2:00 p.m.	Victorian Carolers Visiting the shops & singing Christmas Carole
2:00 p.m.	Ice Sculpture demonstration At the Village Square To be confirmed

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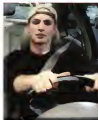
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Dazzling lights



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Volunteers Denis Brunning and Janey Brunning prepare for the Stevensville Kinsmen and Kinettes Clubs' annual tree lighting at Memory Park which will be held this Friday at 7 p.m.

Thank You!

Fort Erie SANTA CLAUS PARADE

The organizers of the Fort Erie Santa Claus Parade wish to extend their sincere thanks to all involved, and particularly the following whose support ensured the success of the parade:

- ♦ The Town of Fort Erie
- ♦ All Parade Participants
- ♦ Niagara Regional Police
- ♦ Our fantastic Volunteers
- ♦ Corporate Sponsors & Partners
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- ♦ Bridgeway Business Improvement Association

Congratulations to the Float Winners...

Band: Niagara Christian Community of Schools
Business: Shorwin Williams Canada
Community Organization / Group: 337 Squadron Air Cadets
Service Club: Kinsmen / Kinettes
Secondary School: Ridgeway Crystal Beach Highschool
Elementary School: Peace Bridge Public School
Overall Winner: Peacock School of Dance

We discuss thanks from the 2013 Fort Erie Santa Claus Parade Organizing Committee:
 Karen Aude, Janine Bougie, Shelly Greaves, Beth Homing, Christen Laird, Stephen Passaro

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Boxes filled with hope

Crystal Beach resident invites the community to fill boxes full of items for women living in shelters this Christmas

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

It's hard to imagine what it's like for a woman to leave her home with nothing but the clothes on her back.

But it is a reality for women in the Niagara region and Crystal Beach resident Allison Earl would like to help them.

As the holiday season nears, Earl hopes to make the season a little brighter for women living in shelters. Earl is organizing a collection of shoe boxes filled with a variety of items such as milks, hair, scarves, chocolates, makeup, soap, hairbrushes, and phone cards. The fundraiser is part of the Shoebox Project, which is a non-profit initiative that collects small gifts and gives them to women living in shelters.

"This is the first time this (initiative) has been done in Niagara," Earl said.

"It started in 2011 with (former Canadian prime minister) Brian Mulroney's daughter and three daughters-in-law. They filled 400 shoeboxes in the first year

and the Shoebox Project was born," she added.

Since its inception, the Shoebox Project has grown to see 18 communities across Canada participate.

The items will be distributed to Women's Place of South Niagara in Welland and Gillian's Place in St. Catharines.

Earl decided to organize her own shoebox initiative in Niagara because there is a great need for assistance.

Earl said the Women's Place of South Niagara is currently operating at 115% capacity.

"I felt it was important to support the shoebox project because the women in the shelters sometimes leave in the middle of the night and they don't have anything with them," she said.

Earl said she is hoping members of the community will fill a

shoebox with at least \$50 worth of items.

"If you're wondering what kinds of things you can put inside a box, just think about all of the things you as a woman have touched in the last 72 hours," she said.

These are the kinds of



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Shoebox Project Niagara Co-ordinator Allison Earl is asking residents to fill boxes with personal items for women in need. The boxes can be dropped off at several local businesses and will be distributed to the Women's Place of South Niagara and Gillian's Place.

Joy, 395 Derby Rd., in Crystal Beach, the Ridgeway IDA, 307 Ridge Rd., in Ridgeway and the office of Dr. R. Ordinario, 1138 Garrison Rd., in Fort Erie.

Donations of items will be collected until Dec. 16 and the items will be distributed to the shelters on Dec. 19.

For more information about the Shoebox Project, Earl encourages people to

visit online at www.shooboxproject.com or e-mail Earl at nagara@shooboxproject.com.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

What: Shoebox Project Niagara

What: collecting donations for Women's Place of South Niagara and Gillian's Place

Where: Until Dec. 16

Where: Yoga Joy, 395 Derby Rd., Crystal Beach, Ridgeway IDA, 307 Ridge Rd., Ridgeway, Dr. R. Ordinario, 1138 Garrison Rd., Fort Erie.

Why: To support women in need

things that women need." Donations for the Shoebox Project can be made at Yoga



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Local youth featured in Welland kickboxing event

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Christian Pereira is only 13 years old but she's already kicking up a storm in the kickboxing world.
The Grade 8 student from

Bertie Public School trains six days a week, splitting her time between Modern Vision Mixed Martial Arts in Welland and Irwin Boxing in Niagara



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There are a number of different types of pills. They all contain the same type of estrogen. Newer pills have less estrogen than older pills. Newer pills are effective in preventing pregnancy and they demonstrate reduced symptoms of bloating and breast tenderness. The lower dose pills may be less effective if one pill is missed, if an individual goes for longer than seven days in a pill free interval that is when they are at most risk of pregnancy. This means it is very important to take the last pill and the first pill of a cycle. There are some recommendations that a pill with a higher dose of estrogen should be used in women weighing over 154 pounds for increased effectiveness.

Pills differ in the type of progestosterone they contain. Some pills are particularly effective for improving acne. Diane 35 is used to treat moderate to severe acne. Yaz is used for mild to moderate acne. There may be a very small increased risk of forming a clot on these pills, and so pills such as Alesse and Marvelon can be tried first.

Some pills are monophasic, meaning they have constant levels of estrogen and progestosterone. Others have changing levels of progestosterone. Both types of pills are effective, the only difficulty with a triphasic pill is that it is not ideal to be taken without a pill free interval. If an individual wants to take their pills back to back to avoid a period, they may still get a period with the triphasic pill.

Sometimes women develop migraines on the pill because of a drop in estrogen during the week off the pill, or they want to avoid having a period. In this case it may be worth taking SEASONALE. This is a pill you take for three months in a row without a break. This is safe to do and may help with the above mentioned issues.

Patients should be aware that some medications can decrease the effectiveness of the pill. Rifampin, barbiturates, phenytoin and carbamazepine can all decrease effectiveness. Experts say that antibiotics are unlikely to reduce efficacy of the pill.

The pill is a good tool for treating a myriad of issues. It can prevent pregnancy, clear acne, regulate and lighten cycles. There are a number of options when it comes to the type of pill you take to address each of these concerns. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist to determine the right one for you.

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SARAH FERGUSON Special to the Times

Christian Pereira, (right) a 13 year-old Grade 8 student from Bertie Public School will be featured in A Kickin' Christmas, a Thai Kickboxing event hosted by Modern Vision Mixed Martial Arts. The event will be held in Welland at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre Saturday, Dec. 7.

Falls.

Pereira decided to get into the ring after watching her older brothers compete in the sport.

"I liked kickboxing because I liked the competitions," Pereira said.

"I have a strong passion for the sport and to go to the nationals as part of Team Canada is the ultimate goal."

The sport requires Pereira to improve her strength to compete. In her short career, the youth has won five of eight bouts in the ring.

To advance in the sport, Pereira has to dedicate a lot of her time training, and has to balance school work and a social life.

"I'm not the most popular kid at school," Pereira said.

Instead of spending weeknights at a friend's house, Pereira finds herself in the gym because her training is important to her.

"I do have three close friends and that's all I need," she said.

Pereira enjoys kickboxing because the sport gives her an opportunity to push herself to her limits physically.

"It's a really great way to test yourself and push yourself to your limits," she said.

"It gives you a great feeling."

Handling competitors can be difficult as there aren't as many female kickboxers. As there are male kickboxers.

"You have to be within a

few pounds of your competitor if you want to get in the ring," Pereira said.

"That's why you usually face the same opponents." But Pereira said the sport is growing and is gaining popularity among women. Kickboxing also teaches her important skills she can take from the ring and use in her daily life.

"I know I love it because kickboxing is strategic, she said."

"It also allows me to focus on my mind and body connection. Kickboxing is about respecting your instructor and your own body."

Pereira is currently training to compete in the Ontario Winter Games which will be held in February in Muskoka and features more than 1,500 athletes each year.

Competitors who perform well in this event could be

given an opportunity to compete in the World Championship in September.

Pereira hopes to be one of the competitors selected to compete at a national level.

"What they're looking for at the Winter Games are for people who are improving," she said.

Pereira will be featured in A Kickin' Christmas, a full-contact Thai kickboxing event hosted by Modern Vision Mixed Martial Arts in Welland on Dec. 7.

Pereira will be featured in the low kick under 45 kg category. She is among local talent including Dalton Brady, Aaron Jeffery and Anthony Romero who will compete in the event.

"The show will be a good time for kids and parents to come out and check (kickboxing) out," she said.

A Kickin' Christmas

Who: Christian Pereira

What: Will be featured in A Kickin' Christmas, a full-contact Thai kickboxing event.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at Modern Vision MMA.

When: Saturday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows

Where: Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 40 McCabe St., Welland.

Why: To highlight Niagara's Thai kickboxing competitors.

Parade winners

This year's Greater Fort Erie Santa Claus parade held Sunday, Nov. 17 featured more than 70 entries from schools, service organizations and other groups.

Judges voted each participant and awarded prizes. The categories included best band, business, community organization, service club, secondary school, elementary school and the overall winner.

Best band: Niagara Christian Community of Schools
Business: Sherwin Williams Canada Community organization: 337 Squadron Air Cadets
Service club: Kinsmen and Kinettes
Secondary school: Ridgeway Crystal Beach Highschool
Elementary School: Peace Bridge Public School
Overall: Peacock School of Dance



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After school program receives funding boost from bank

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

An after school program is uniting three former schools in Fort Erie.

"It's a much needed after school program that wouldn't have started with-

out a spark," Peace Bridge Public principal Cindy Cohlinski said of the after school program offered through the Fort Erie Multicultural Centre.

The program opened in October, but local dignitaries, RBC employees and Multicultural Centre employees met at Peace Bridge Public School during an open house Wednesday to see the program in action.

The program is held daily at Peace Bridge Public School from 3:30 to 6 p.m., and has been funded through a \$40,000 grant provided as part of RBC Royal Bank's After School Project. The grant is part of \$2.5 million that has been given to 106 organizations across

Canada.

Cohlinski said there was a great need for the program since Fort Erie Elementary School, Rose Seaton Public School and General Vanier closed and amalgamated into Peace Bridge Public School this year.

Both Fort Erie and Rose Seaton offered afterschool programming which disappeared when they closed, Cohlinski said.

Multicultural Centre youth worker Sandra Barrett said the afterschool program hosted at Peace Bridge Public School serves 30 children and there is a growing wait list.

Barrett said the afterschool program offers snacks, activities and transportation home for stu-

dents.

The grant received will cover the costs of the program for one school year. As the year progresses, Barrett said the Multicultural Centre will reach out to the community to fundraise for subsequent years.

"The grant pretty much covers what we need this year but we'll have to continue to fundraise for the program," Barrett said.

The youth worker said the Multicultural Centre is also looking for community partners to help fund the program.

"This program is important for a lot of people and we would like to see it continue to grow."

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca



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SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

From left, Jon Michael Mollicone and Trista Lotgren read a book during an afterschool program held at Peace Bridge Public School. The program, which is run by the Fort Erie Multicultural Centre, received a \$40,000 grant from RBC Royal Bank's After School Project.

Serving the community

Barb Volke says she was meant to help others through Community Program Outreach Erie

Sarah Ferguson
Fort Erie Times

Barb Volke feels like she was meant to help those in need as Community Program Outreach Erie's manager.

The doors to COPE opened in January 1983 but it wasn't until June of that year that Volke signed on to work for the food bank.

With one position open, and two people applying for the job, Volke said she was disappointed when she didn't initially get the hired.

When the other person

turned the position down, Volke leapt at the chance to serve the community as a staff member of COPE.

Past forward 30 years later, and Volke is still happy to be working to serve the needs of the people of Fort Erie.

The COPE office on Dufferin St. is small, but it's just enough space for Volke, her daughter Mandy Crosby, and the food bank.

The Times sat down with Volke in her office to talk about the role she has played in the community.

Question: How was COPE formed?

Answer: I was part of a group. It was called Women Involved Today. It was a social group to empower women to get out and do more. It was for housewives who were looking for things to do. We did all sorts of things like visiting historical

places and volunteering. COPE was born out of that.

Q: How did you get the job at the food bank?

A: When I applied for the job, it came down to two people. It was myself and another person. We were both good candidates and they literally picked a name out of a hat. The other person got the job but it wasn't what they expected, so here I am.

Q: How did you initially feel when you thought you didn't get the job?

A: I was devastated I didn't get the job. It was where I wanted to be and when I got the call, I started the next day and I never looked back.

Q: What was it like working at COPE when it first



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Barb Volke, who has worked for Community Outreach Program Erie for 30 years, is grateful to the community for its continued support, especially with the organization's penny drive.

opened?
A: It first started on Jarvis St. and it was crammed with three desks and wall dividers. There was no privacy but we didn't worry about it because we were too busy.

Q: When did COPE move from Jarvis St. to where it is now on Dufferin St?

A: It eventually moved to Courtwright St. where we had a lot more space. Later we moved to this building on Dufferin St. I can't remember when it happened but it's perfect here for us. We have all the space we need for offices, the food pantry and it's a perfect location for our clients.

Q: COPE operates in a residential neighbourhood. Is it difficult to run a food bank in a residential area?

A: We're thankful that our neighbours have embraced us. One of our neighbours also helps us by cutting the grass. Our neighbours are something we defi-

nately don't take for granted.

Q: How would you describe COPE to someone who didn't know about the organization?

A: We're a grass roots organization with down-to-earth people trying to make a difference in the lives of people. All we want to do is keep our doors open and provide people in need with help. We couldn't do this on our own without the community.

Q: How does the food bank operate?

A: There is no point system. People have to show us verification of household income and how many people live there. Staff put together a list of items and fill a box. It's worked well for 30 years.

Q: What kinds of items do you put in a box and give to a family or an individual in need?

A: It depends on the person's needs. We get to know our clients and we are very responsible and get to know the community as a whole.

Q: How difficult is it to run a food bank in a community in which many of its residents are facing economic struggles?

A: The first word that comes to mind is challenge. People

come to us for help whether we provide it through COPE or through another agency. People come to us when they don't know where to go and we try to help steer them in the right direction.

Q: Is there ever a time when COPE isn't able to provide assistance?

A: Admittedly, we don't have answers for everything but we try to do our best to help.

Q: What surprises you the most about your work?

A: During our penny drive, our goal was to raise one million pennies from July 2013 to 2013. People thought it was a pipe dream but we did it and people are still bringing pennies in.

Q: How do you feel about Fort Erie? Do you think it's been painted in a negative light because of all of the loss it has faced in recent years?

A: I was born here, I have always lived here and I doubt I will ever leave. I would never refer to my hometown as dreary. I find it sad and heart-breaking that some people don't think Fort Erie is a good place to live but it's home to me.

sarah.ferguson@summedia.ca

Public Notice

Public Consultation and Information Sessions for the West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accommodation Review will be held at the following schools:

Thursday, December 12, 2013
6:00 p.m.

BERTIE PUBLIC SCHOOL
3770 Hazel Street, Ridgeway, ON
(Information will be available on Bertie Public School)

Thursday, December 12, 2013
7:00 p.m.

CRYSTAL BEACH PUBLIC SCHOOL
145 Derby Road, Crystal Beach, ON
(Information will be available on Crystal Beach Public School)

Thursday, December 12, 2013
8:00 p.m.

RIDGEWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL
143 Ridge Road, Ridgeway, ON
(Information will be available on Ridgeway Public School)

Schools involved in the review area are:
Bertie, Crystal Beach and Ridgeway



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Director: Warren Hoshizaki

Ridgeway hosts inaugural Black Friday event

Jennifer Chornley
For Fort Erie Times

Black Friday clouded over downtown Ridgeway last Friday, not in a weather sense, but instead, to encourage residents to shop local.

In its inaugural year, a group of local businesses participated in a Black Friday Retail event. The participating shops are also contributing members of the Ridgeway Business Improvement Area (RBIA), which is the brainchild that established the idea.

"Even though we are a small village we wanted to show that we could be competitive with any marketing campaign that is available outside of our community as well," explained RBIA chair Derrick Dea.

Stores remained open later and offered customers gifts with certain purchase amounts and special product discounts in an attempt divert from shopping out of town at big box stores or venturing cross border.

Despite the damp, wet weather toward the end of the evening, the Black Friday Shopping concept generated a positive response by the business owners and the concept was well-received by customers.

"This year was a tester to see how it would fly," Dea said, adding RBIA members were very pleased with the results of the campaign.

Dea also confirmed that this event will be expanded next year to become a more significant one and ensure more RBIA participating members.

Isabel Przybysz, manager of Downtown Dolls and Discount, asked, "Why go out of town when everything you need is here in Ridgeway?"

Owner Vivianne Cooney agrees, "I am a firm believer in making your shopping experience on the benches

all, especially since the customer lives here, as does the business owner."

The cooperation amongst the business owners was duly noted by Cooney and Maureen Tillet, owner of A Renaissance Woman. Tillet said cooperation has increased through more communication and product and service referrals.

For Maureen cooperation is important, as there are a number of new business owners to the Ridgeway area, herself included. "Referrals from one business to another helps build the commu-

The Ridgeway BIA

Purpose: To create good will amongst the business community and the general population, foster cooperation amongst businesses, and act as liaison with the Town of Fort Erie staff and the Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce

Duties: improve, beautify and maintain the municipal lands, buildings and structures in the Ridgeway B.I.A.

Promote the area as a business & shopping area
To develop and implement a streetscape and downtown revitalization program

and
business efforts as well."

Relocating from Burlington to the Ridgeway community earlier this year she commented, "I love this community, the people are open and friendly. It has great community spirit."

Dea also commented on the member cooperation, "It is very important to the RBIA to maintain and support local business and encourage cooperation and involvement of all of its members."

"We are getting more and more members seeing the benefits of working together to provide a fun and exciting environment for the community to shop," she adds.

Cheryl Carpenter, store



JENNIFER CHORNLEY Special to The Times
Schmidt & Giggles Sweet Shoppe owner Sonia van Brussel, shows local Ridgeway resident Mary Weaver the store's selection of great gift ideas, including imported sweets, stuffed toys and Harry Potter accessories.

who did participate," she said in an upbeat tone. "It's a great concept, wonderful thing to do."

Carpenter suggested that the advertising efforts start earlier and have next year's event on the same day as the American day. "It would make a world of difference, enticing people to shop locally instead of cross-border. It's a great way to bring the community together."

Dea addressed the issue of awareness and promotion the event by stating these issues will be expanded next year to include more advertising and social media.

"The community is very important to all of the RBIA members," Dea commented. "We want to prove that we can be a viable shopping experience to residents as well."

Another benefit of shopping locally is the potential

surprise factor. Cooney said that just because some businesses look small on the outside, once the customer enters inside, small isn't always the case. Carpenter agrees, as Brodie's is increasing its product lines to incorporate shops Ridgeway doesn't have for the moment, like jewellery.

Another new business Schmidt & Giggles Sweet Shoppe can attest to the surprise factor. Sonia and Jessica van Brussel say customers come in all the time, browsing the shop stating, "I haven't seen these in years!"

"Anything you can't find in a regular variety store we have here," Jessica said. Karen Malton, owner of Work of Art Frame Shop, said, "It can only get better from here."

She said that to have later store openings allows for more flexibility for the resi-

dents that work out of town. "It's nice to see everyone working together to achieve more flexibility."

Ridgeway resident Mary Weaver praised the Ridgeway Business Improvement Area's shopping initiative.

"This is a very good way to build up Ridgeway," she said. "We have lost so much, especially the race track. So it's great everyone is working together to, not only bring in the local residents, but tourists as well."

Tillet echoes that supportive concept.

Plus, because the Ridgeway community has many transients coming in – part-time summer residents retired and semi-retired resident she says, "It has a lot of potential for growth. If the businesses continue to band together that they are now, we could definitely be the next Niagara-on-the-Lake."

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

All claims against the estate of
ANDRÉ LAFRENIÈRE, late of the TOWN of FORT ERIE in the REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY of NIAGARA, who died on or about the 4th day of November, 2013, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustees on or before the 19th day of December, 2013; thereafter, the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed.
 DATED at Fort Erie this 21st day of November, 2013.

DIANE LAFRENIÈRE,
 Estate Trustee, by her Solicitor,
HAGAN LAW FIRM
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IN THE ESTATE OF RALPH RAYMOND REHM

All persons having claims against the Estate of RALPH RAYMOND REHM, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on the 24th day of January, 2013, are notified to send particulars to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of December, 2013, after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claims the undersigned shall not then have notice.

Dated this 4th day of November, 2013.

Wayne H. Rodding, Estate Trustee
 James J. Zimmmer & Solicitors
 Barristers and Solicitors
 289 Ridge Road
 Ridgeway, Ontario
 L0S 1N0
 Telephone 905-894-0220
 Fax 905-894-5336

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

ALL PERSONS having claims against the Estate of **REYNOLD WILLIAMS J.A.A. "WILLIE JOE"**, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on or about 6th day of March, 2013 are notified to send full particulars to the undersigned on or before November 29, 2013, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have notice.

JOHN T. TEAL, Esq., Barrister & Solicitor
 830 Bess Ave. Unit 120 Thompson Road,
 Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 5A9
 Solicitor for the Estate Trustee,
 Patrick Charles Murphy

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
IN THE ESTATE OF GERMAINE DUHAMEL

All persons having claims against the estate of GERMAINE DUHAMEL, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on or before the 17th day of August, 2013, are notified to send particulars to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of January 2014, after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

Dated this 28th day of Nov. 2013.
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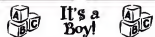
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Births



CARSON ANTONIO ASH



Glen Ash and Gina Dele Rose-Ash are proud to announce the arrival of their son, **Carson Antonio Ash**, who was born on October 26th, 2013 at the St. Catharines Hospital. Carson weighed 7lbs 15oz and was 20.5 inches long at birth.

Proud grandparents for the first time are Tony and Maria Dele Rose of Fort Erie, ON. Allan and Sandy Ash of Sherbrooke, ON are also pleased to welcome their 8th grandchild to the family. Also celebrating Carson's arrival are his great grandparents, Giovanna Dele Rose of Fort Erie, ON, Paolo & Teresa Donisi of Dunkirk, NY and Muriel Ash of Mississauga, ON. Carson is also welcomed by his many uncles, aunts and cousins. Special 'thank you' to 'Team K' of Sages-Femmes Renaissance Midwifery and the nurses at the St. Catharines General Hospital.

Births



RELES

Jackson and Ewan would like to announce the joyful arrival of their baby brother, **Lucas William**. Proud parents are Patti and Kevin. Elated grandparents are Bob and Janey Renshaw, Giselle Reles and Paul Reles. Great grandmother Jean Relegh. Lucas was born on Oct. 28, 2013 at the McMaster University Hospital and was 8 lbs 5 ozs.

Coming Events

ALZHEIMER Society Niagara Region Support Groups for Care Partners - meets first Wed of each month (except July & Aug) 1:00-2:30pm Residencia on Garrison, 373 Garrison Rd. Fort Erie. 905-887-3914

Coming Events



Christmas Carol Sing
Come, Join & Sing
St. John's Stevensville
United Church
14789 Sodom Rd., Stevensville
Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013 at 1:30pm
Proceeds to local food bank.

Thank You Notes



I would like to thank all my family and friends who honored me with their attendance and best wishes for my 90th Birthday party at Bridgewater Country Club. Special thanks to my daughter-in-law Sheila Beck and my two grandsons, Christopher and Adam.
Mildred Newton

Cards of Thanks



John Crottinger

Many thanks to all who expressed condolences, thoughtful sentiments and memories of John.
Much appreciated,
Joy

MILTON MILLER's family would like to thank our relatives and friends for all their support during our recent loss.
For the food, flowers, cards and donations - we thank you.

For the hugs and being there when we needed you most - we thank you.
To the staff at GNDH and Douglas Memorial Hospital - we thank you.
To CCAC, Paramedics, St. Elizabeths and Red Cross Care Partners - we couldn't have done it without you.

To the ladies at St. John's & St. Paul's, To Father Wayne Fraser for his love & support, To Bill Outred for the music, To my sisters for the eulogy, To the Benner Funeral Home for your guidance.
- thank you.

And last but not least to our grandchildren and great grandchildren, Grandpa would have been so proud of you.
And just to let you know:

"I'm fine, thank you."
Love Ginny, Kim, John, and Donna



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Obituaries



LILLIE, Michael Thomas - Michael passed away at the Douglas Memorial Hospital on Monday November 25, 2013 after a courageous battle with cancer. Predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Ethel Lillie. Proud brother of, Daniel (Dianne), Kevin (Shawn), and Eileen (Patrick). Fondly remembered by his nephews Thom (Kate), Aaron, Zachary, Christopher, Joshua and his nieces Jennifer and Mackenzie. Michael is missed by his many sons, uncles and cousins both here in Canada and the United Kingdom and by his many dear friends. Michael was an active outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and hunting trips with his friends. He was a member of St. Andrew's-Knox Presbyterian Church. "He has fought the good fight, he has finished the race, he has kept the faith." **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Friday November 28th from 6-9 p.m. Funeral Services will be conducted in the Benner Funeral Chapel on Saturday morning at 11 a.m. Interment to follow in McAffee Cemetery if so desired, donations in Michael's memory to Our Daily Bread or to St. Andrew's-Knox Presbyterian Church would be appreciated by the family.



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Obituaries

BURTON, Albert - At G.N.G.H. on November 21, 2013, in his 79th year. Albert will be missed by his wife Dawn, daughter Pamela Howe, grandson Colin Howe and sister Leone McGee. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and sisters & brothers-in-law. At Albert's request cremation has taken place and interment will take place in Newfoundland this summer. In lieu of flowers, donations to Allivia's Rainbows at www.alliviasrainbows.com would be appreciated by his family. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 905-894-0120.



HYDE, Thomas Roy - (63) formerly of Stevensville, passed away peacefully in Rousesville, New Brunswick Saturday November 16, 2013 after a courageous battle with leukemia. Cherished husband and best friend of Judy, loving father to Thomas (Sarah), Gregg (Angie) and Sherry-Lynn March (Bryan). He will be deeply missed by his grandchildren Helen, Grace, Sonya, Colin and Hailey. Beloved brother of Darlene Augustine (James), Patricia Nemeth (Alexander), Terrance and Suzanne. Tom is lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews and is predeceased by his parents Lauren and Marjorie Hyde. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held on Saturday November 30, 2:00pm at the Faith Reformed Church 3605 Black Creek Road, Stevensville.

WHYTE, Annie (nee Grishkewich) - Passed away peacefully, with her family by her side, on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at Douglas Memorial Hospital, in her 92nd year. Predeceased by her husband Dennis (1990), and by her brothers Alexander and Nicholas. Annie is survived by her siblings Bill (Joyce), Mike (Betty), Mary and Sophia. Annie will also be greatly missed by her nieces and nephews. Annie's family received friends at the **GEORGE DART FURNAL CHAPEL**, 585 Carlton St. on Friday, November 22, 2013. A celebration of Annie's life was held in the funeral home chapel on Saturday, November 23, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Burial followed the service at Victoria Lawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Obituaries

GEE, James Roy - Passed away peacefully at Greater Niagara General Hospital on Monday November 25, 2013 at the age of 97. Beloved husband of the late Lillian. Dear father of Joyce Milburn (Gordon), Lorene (Ron) Walker, Diane Shears and Jim (June) Gee. Much loved grandfather of 10, great-grandfather of 11 and great-great-grandfather of 2. He will also be sadly missed by "Sparky" the dog. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES**, 7222 Ridge Road entrusted with arrangements. Visitation will be held on Thursday November 28th from 10 am until service time at 11 o'clock. Interment will follow at Ridgeway Memorial Cemetery.

In Memoriams **In Memoriams**

ERIC WOOD
November 11, 1954 - December 1, 2006
Son, Grandson, Nephew, and Cousin
Another year has come and gone
And yet you still are near
We see you smile and hear you laugh
And wish that you were here.
Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same.
We have to hide our heartache
When someone speaks your name
The special years will not return
When we are all together.
But with the love within our hearts
You will walk with us forever
Missing you is a heartache
That never goes away.
We miss you, Eric
Gram and all your family.

Niagara
Funeral Alternatives Inc.
Cremations and Burials
**Remembrance Takes Thought,
Not Expense**
Jerome J. O'Charuchin, Funeral Director
905-894-0120
241 Ridge Road • Ridgeway • ON • L5S 1N0



Place an
In Memoriam....
Our Staff will be
pleased to help you.

Marylou McGregor
July 21, 1949 - December 4, 2012
It's been a year
You left behind our broken
hearts and happy memories, too...
But we never wanted memories Mom,
we only wanted you.
Love always
Skippy, Joanne and Trista



You are invited to our ...

Holiday Memorial Service

This service will be an opportunity to recognize the lives of those that have passed, regardless of where or when. Please call the funeral home for more information and to have your loved one's name added to the Litany of Remembrance
905-871-0444 or 905-894-1161

Williams Funeral Services

Wednesday December 4th, 2013
Music of the season 6:30
Memorial Service 7:00
St. Paul's Anglican Church
Niagara Blvd. and Gilmore Rd.
Refreshments to follow.

Call
1-866-541-6757

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TIREEXCLUSIVE CLIP LIGHTS
TO CANADIAN TIRE

#151-0787-8



#151-0788-8



#151-0789-6

Ranging from \$22⁹⁹ to \$26⁹⁹ (available in different colours and sizes)

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Light Show Flex Tech
Starry Night Tape Lights,
10-ft, White

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\$49⁹⁹Light Show Flex Tech
Tape Lights, 10-ft,
Multi-Colour

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\$64⁹⁹Shooting Star LED
Icicle Christmas Lights,
Assorted Colours

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\$34⁹⁹**Emerald** 100-Mini Outdoor
Incandescent Icicle LightsReg
\$9.99

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\$13.99

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Emerald Incandescent Rope
Lights, 12-ft, Assorted ColoursReg
\$12.99

#51-2650-X

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Outdoor Incandescent
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Assorted ColoursReg
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#51-2832-6**NOMA** 25 Outdoor C9
LED Christmas Lights,
Assorted ColoursReg
\$15.99
#51-2310-8**Emerald** 250-Mini
Indoor Incandescent
Christmas Lights, ClearReg
\$19.99
#51-2456-2**Emerald** 50-Mini Indoor
Twinkling Christmas
Lights, ClearReg
\$12.99
#51-2437-8**Emerald** 200-Mini
Indoor Incandescent
Christmas Lights, Assorted
ColoursReg
\$16.99
#51-2414-6**Emerald** 100-Mini
Indoor Incandescent
Christmas Lights, ClearReg
\$9.99
#51-2382-6**Emerald** 200-Mini
Indoor Incandescent
Christmas Lights, ClearReg
\$16.99
#51-2358-6**Emerald** 50-Mini Indoor
Incandescent Christmas
Lights, ClearReg
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Solution Tree StandReg
\$44.99
#51-3729-8**Swivel** Straight Tree
Stand, 20-inReg
\$59.99
#51-3700-4**Plastic** Tree StandReg
\$19.99
#51-3728-0**Holiday Collections**
Superior Plastic
Christmas Tree Stand, 9-ftReg
\$34.99
#151-0315-2**Santa Solutions**
Heavy Metal Tree StandReg
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Don Cherry's Port Colborne	Joe's Place	Lazy Loon Restaurant
Sharps & Squares Bar & Grill	Montana's Cookhouse	MT Bellies
Outback Steakhouse	Boston Pizza	Strada West
Old Bank Bistro	Perkins Restaurant	Iggy's Pub & Grub
My Place Bar & Grill	Stone Road Grille	Big Marco's Restaurant
The Sub King	Asian Legends	Zappi's Pizza
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Custom built all brick home with 2700 sq ft plan full basement and 2.5 car garage. Call Dawn Kendrick for view #1986



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\$199,900
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Stevensville#2013

Handyman special #2013
PRESENT OFFERS \$174,500
3 bedroom bi-level needs some TLC. Call Dawn Kendrick #2013



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PRICED @ \$137,500
Spacious 2 bedroom bungalow within walking distance to all amenities. Call Dawn Kendrick for view #2015



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\$137,000
Steps to the Lake 3 bedroom cottage, with backyard for bonfires. Call Dawn Kendrick #2020



OPEN HOUSE 2-4 SUN
\$214,900
4 bedrooms 1.2 baths, newer updates, fenced yard, 2 tiered deck with hot tub. Marge Ott #2014



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\$229,900
2 bedroom townhouse across the street from the lake, no condo fees. Marge Ott #1984



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\$329,900
3 bedroom country home with huge garage, sitting on 3 plus acres. Marge Ott #1952



FORT ERIE

\$279,900
3 bedroom on a large lot, no rear neighbours, many updates, just like new. Marge Ott #2002



CRYSTAL BEACH

\$145,500
Cute as a button!
Great for starting out or downsizing. Pam Thomas #1909



FORT ERIE

\$229,000
BUNGALOW IN THE COUNTRY
2+1 bedroom, bungalow with 2 woodburning stoves, large deck overlooking fenced back yard. Jennifer Eberly MLS N30026860



FORT ERIE

\$229,000
3 bdrms. Bungalow w/ year round sun room, huge lot - 120' x 280'. One attached garage with oil paved drive. Many updates. Call Kim Barntner for Morica Oerhan MLS N30026865

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